

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. GUTHRIE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, everyone wants to make health care more affordable and more accessible, but for the past year, the majority has been working on pieces of a puzzle they call health care reform. And now that their puzzle is complete, the picture doesn't make any sense.

Their final image includes billions of dollars in new taxes, over \$1 trillion in new government, increases the premiums of the 85 percent of those who have health insurance, and cuts Medicare by half a trillion dollars. And I continue to hear from Kentuckians from home who remain concerned over the possible passage of this bill and who are frustrated with this process.

We need to start over. We need to piece together better solutions in an open and honest system. Now is the time to work on incremental reforms that will lower the cost of health care without spending trillions and bankrupting future generations.

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(Ms. DeLAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, 2 weeks ago, I went to dinner with my family in New Haven, Connecticut. As we left the restaurant, a young woman stopped me. She said to me, ROSA, can I talk to you for a moment? I've been waiting for you. I said, Why didn't you come over to the table? She said, I didn't want to disturb you or your family. No disturbance.

I looked at this beautiful young woman with tears in her eyes. And she said to me, ROSA, I have lung cancer. I have lung cancer, and I cannot get the kind of help that I need. I can't leave my job because I will not be able to get insurance. Preexisting condition is killing me. Pass health care reform.

You don't know Melissa Marotolli. I do, and Melissa Marotolli's face haunts me every single day. And this is not just one story. It is writ large across this Nation, a people who can't leave their jobs; they can't get the care they need because the insurance companies have run roughshod over them. Yes, they are rationing health care in this country. I know where I stand. I stand with the Melissa Marotollis of this Nation. My Republican colleagues stand with the insurance companies.

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(Mr. SCHOCK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCHOCK. Madam Speaker, this bill really is not about health insurance reform. If you watched the Presi-

dent's televised health care forum, you heard them say it time and time again: This is about entitlement expansion. And that is really where the real debate comes down this center line. Both sides agree that there needs to be health care reform. Republicans have put forward a thoughtful bill since last April promoting reform, competition across State lines, covering people with preexisting conditions, on and on and on.

But how can my friends on the other side of the aisle endorse this bill when the Congressional Budget Office, the nonpartisan determiner of how much these bills cost us, has not come out with their cost estimate for this bill? I know from my home State of Illinois, our Governor is talking about a 50 percent tax increase to pay for \$9 billion in unpaid Medicaid bills. This bill we do know will cost my State of Illinois \$1.89 billion over 5 years just for their match. I don't know how anyone from my State can support this bill.

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(Ms. TSONGAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, some of the most egregious insurance industry practices in our health care system disproportionately harm women, and this needs to change. Under the current system, women pay more and get less and often are denied care. If a woman is of a certain age or is already pregnant, insurers can deny her, of all things, maternity coverage. In eight States, it is still legal for insurance companies to deny a woman coverage if she has been the victim of domestic violence.

These examples illustrate how our current system discriminates against over 50 percent of the population of our country. And that is why I offered a motion on this important issue in last night's Budget Committee hearing. My Republican colleagues joined me in supporting this motion, acknowledging that health care reform must end these harmful insurance practices. So many of the health care reforms that are so important to women, families, and our Nation hang in the balance. We must pass these commonsense changes in our health care system.

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(Mr. HERGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, the American people are increasingly rejecting government-run health care. They are saying "no" to backroom deals and gimmicks used by the majority party to ram this bill through by any means necessary. The Democrat leadership has greased the skids to ignore the will of the American people and make their vision of socialized medicine the law of the land.

Abusing the rules of when it suits the majority party's purpose is not what the American people want. Madam Speaker, allow us to do the work we were sent here to do. Let this bill stand or fail on its merits. An issue so important to America's future demands transparency and a legitimate up-or-down vote.

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(Mr. ANDREWS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, as a direct result of the White House submit a couple of weeks ago, good ideas from both parties are in this plan. But there is a philosophical difference between the two parties that I think came out last night. On weekends I very often go to the supermarket and see these little notices for beef and beer socials for people trying to raise money for a medical emergency in their family. Most of the people trying to do this have insurance. But their daughter has leukemia or their son is on a ventilator and they ran out of health insurance benefits because they run up against what is called a lifetime policy limit.

Last night, we took a vote on whether or not to abolish those lifetime policy limits so no family should have to do that. Our side voted "yes." Their side voted "no." But Members of Congress, in their own health plan, if our families have this problem, there is no limit on what we get.

So we think that the American people should get the same benefit that the men and women who vote in this Chamber every day do. We believe we should stand on the side of the families of this country, not the insurance industry.

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(Mr. MILLER of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, the health care reform debate has become a farce, and I am outraged. I am outraged at this proposed law. I am outraged at the process. I am outraged at the majority party's sham of a health care bill. But I'm not the only one. The American people are outraged. Americans have marched, they have protested and they have written letters and they have made phone calls. Americans have spoken, Madam Speaker, and they do not want this health care bill.

But the worst part about it is that we may not even vote on it. The majority party wants to deem the Senate bill passed and then hope that the Senate changes the bill later. Was this the hope and the change that we can all believe in? Madam Speaker, this has become a legislative sleight of hand, a gimmick, a parlor trick.